INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL PROJECTS (R1 SMALL GRANTS)
FY 2013 FINAL REPORT

Project Title: Eradication of Yellow-flag Iris

Station: McNary NWR and Toppenish NWR, Mid-Columbia River NWR Complex

Contact Person: Kevin Goldie

Project Description: The project as described was to attempt to eradicate yellow-flag iris from both McNary and Toppenish National Wildlife Refuges using chemical and, where necessary, manual methods. Yellow-flag iris is an escaped ornamental rhizomatous perennial herb that can form dense mats in riparian and wetland areas, displacing native vegetation while providing little habitat or forage value for wildlife. Iris had recently invaded these two refuges and was showing up in numerous distinct yet disparate areas, infesting an estimated 7 acres within nearly 2,100 acres of moist soil units, wetlands and impoundments.

Invasive Species Targeted: Yellow-flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*; a Class "C" noxious weed in WA, and "B" designated in Oregon)

Project Completion Date or Estimated Completion Date: approximately June 21, 2013

Project Results: Hiring restrictions following implementation of sequestration cuts greatly hindered implementation of the project. We were not able to get the strike team on until after most of the iris flowers had peaked. However most patches were mapped or otherwise documented before this happened. Since iris remains susceptible to chemical control after flower loss we were able to treat most of the known patches. The strike team, working with licensed refuge personnel, chemically treated all known patches using a 3-5% solution of aquatic-use labeled glyphosate (primarily Aqua Neat®) and a label-rate of non-ionic surfactants (primarily LI-700®). Due to the late start we were not able to survey the remainder of the refuge lands for iris.

Efficacy will not be able to be determined until 2014. All sprayed iris turned brown, but the iris turns brown every year eventually. The NFWF grant we received for the strike team is good for three years. Off-set salaries this year is allowing us to bring the team on earlier in 2014, which will allow for any necessary follow-up treatments. We also have the option of using alternate chemistry with different modes of action to increase efficacy and/or reduce chances of resistance (e.g., aquatic-use labeled imazapyr).

Number of Acres Treated: ~8 acres

Number of Acres Inventoried and/or Mapped: ~1,000 acres

Number of Acres Restored: unknown

Total Grant Amount: $12,500

Breakdown of Expenditures: (totals approximate)

Category	**Total $ Spent**	**% of Total Grant**
Equipment/Supplies	$500	4%
Chemical	$250	2%
Biocontrol Agents	---	---
Travel (includes fuel)	$1,200	9.6%
Biotech/Contractor/Salary	$10,550	84.4%
Restoration Materials	---	---
Other (Describe)	---	---
TOTAL	$12,500	100%